



**Nisus**  
CORPORATION

## NISUS KNOWLEDGE CENTER

# ASK THE NISUS EXPERTS

**This month's expert:** National Technical Manager **RON SCHWALB**, on controlling drain flies

### 1. Controlling and preventing drain flies is increasingly becoming a requested add-on service at commercial accounts. What do you recommend for treatment?

Over the years, we've constantly battled drain fly situations. We knew the problems stemmed from organic matter buildup, but there was no true treatment application until biologicals such as Bac-Azap® came on the scene. We have since taken Bac-Azap's effectiveness a step further by pairing it with a foaming agent, ProFoam™ Platinum.

Bac-Azap has been on the market for about eight years, and is known for its odor control. It combines nonpathogenic bacteria agents that create their own natural enzymes to neutralize odors from dead skunks and other animals that get into attics, under porches, etc.

### 2. How does it work against drain flies?

The drain situation is where Bac-Azap really comes in handy. Bac-Azap's bacteria and enzymes consume the slime layer in the drain where the fly larvae develop and emerge. The key to drain fly control and prevention is eliminating that layer of gunk and slime that clings to the sides of the pipe and serves as a breeding ground. Bac-Azap doesn't kill the flies, but it does eliminate their habitat. The product consumes the organic buildup, which prevents the flies from developing.

Foaming Bac-Azap in dumpsters is another add-on opportunity to eliminate odors and prevent fly population harborage.

These are needed services at restaurants, schools, parks, etc., and they are a nice addendum to services PMPs already offer. It gives a more professional appearance when you can provide preventative services. Bac-Azap ties in well both as a pest management and as an odor elimination tool. Because it is not a pesticide, it can even be sold to customers for their garbage can odors, etc.

### 3. What role does sanitation play in this add-on service?

Sanitation is key, but successful treatment is really a combination of what you put down the drain and how clean the area is. That's where a foaming unit comes in, because if you pour a liquid down the drain, it's just going to flow through and you may not get a lot of adherence to the pipe. By



foaming, you enhance the product's coverage against the walls of the pipe for a longer period of time.

### 4. Nisus endorses the foamers produced by NPD Ltd. How did the relationship between Nisus and NPD become established?

Our customers were telling us our products worked well together, and that there was a special synergy when they foamed Bac-Azap with ProFoam. Our companies listened and now we're doing the production and packaging of ProFoam Platinum for NPD.

For their part, NPD President Michael Howe and his team have done an excellent job with foam research. In fact, in California ProFoam Platinum is exempt from Prop 65, which mandates a listing for products that contain potential carcinogens. A lot of foaming agents may have materials that could be listed on Prop 65, but ProFoam has gone through the appropriate reviews and is now exempt.

In addition, NPD's foamers are simply a good mesh with the rest of the Nisus product line. Other foaming equipment can be used, but we feel really comfortable with the NPD line because of the research put into the application. We know it works well. In fact, one unit actually does three applications — foaming, liquid and dust.

### Do you have a question on drain fly control for the Nisus Experts?

You can send it three ways:

Email us at [nisus@pestcontrolmag.com](mailto:nisus@pestcontrolmag.com),

Fax it to Nisus at Pest Control, 440-891-2675, or

Mail it to Nisus at Pest Control, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130.



*Nisus Expert Ronald Schwalb is National Technical Manager. He has more than 30 years of experience in the pest control industry, and belongs to several industry associations and societies focusing on technology and pest management professionalism.*